



## **HOLLAND BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Holland BPW continues to meet air quality permit requirements**

HOLLAND, MI. December 01, 2011 – The Holland Board of Public Works (HBPW) presently complies with all Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) air pollution regulations. This statement was issued in response to Sierra Club allegations that Holland residents are at risk of unsafe exposure to sulfur dioxide.

HBPW’s Interim General Manager John Van Uffelen indicated that the plant is operating within current permit standards.

In summer of 2011, the State of Michigan, in response to the EPA’s new 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> standard, recommended to the EPA designations of “nonattainment” for an area in Wayne County only, with the remainder of the state given an “unclassifiable” designation. (NOTE: Ottawa County was designated as unclassified.) The MDEQ is conducting new air pollution modeling and will make final recommendations to the EPA in the coming year.

“It is anticipated that the EPA doesn’t expect final designations until next summer,” Van Uffelen said. “We are aware of the potential ambient air standards. The HBPW intends to keep its plant in compliance presently and in the future.”

“We are operating within the permit we presently have. The MDEQ and the EPA are the regulators and have the authority to determine compliance, not the Sierra Club. We will continue to rely and work within the MDEQ determination,” Van Uffelen concluded.

The Holland Board of Public Works provides essential, economical and innovative utility services for the Holland community including energy, water, wastewater and infrastructure for communications. We operate socially and environmentally responsible utility enterprises that are able to expand and sustain a highly functional, reliable and efficient local infrastructure.

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